

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

2003 FEB 24 A 11:39

AJILON LLC

Plaintiff

v.

SOFTSOL RESOURCES, INC.

Defendant

Civil Case No. L-02-4075

Order for Rule 26(f) Planning Meeting
and
Rule 16(b) Scheduling Conference

At 2:15 p.m. on March 24, 2003, the Court will hold a Rule 16(b) pretrial scheduling conference. The conference will be held in Courtroom 3D.

Before the conference, Counsel shall hold a Rule 26(f) planning meeting. Unless Counsel are more than 60 miles apart, they must meet face-to-face. On or before March 17, 2003, Counsel shall submit a joint proposed discovery plan, which will address the following:

- A. exchange of documents. Specifically, the parties shall determine (i) what categories of documents they will exchange and (ii) a timeline for doing so;
- B. interrogatories. Specifically, the parties shall determine (i) how many interrogatories will be allowed, (ii) when they will be submitted to the other side, and (iii) when they will be answered;
- C. depositions. Specifically, (i) who will be deposed, (ii) how many hours will be allowed, and (iii) when the depositions will occur;
- D. timelines for Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures, or whether the parties would prefer to dispense with these disclosures;
- E. experts. Specifically, (i) the types and number of experts the parties expect to use, (ii) when expert reports will be exchanged and (iii) when experts will be deposed;
- F. a deadline for the close of discovery;
- G. whether the parties wish to appear before a United States Magistrate Judge for a settlement conference, and if so, at what point in the litigation;
- H. whether the parties will consent to a trial before a United States Magistrate Judge;

- I. whether dispositive motions are anticipated, and if so, what arguments will be raised;
- J. a brief description (no more than two pages per side) of the case, including all claims and defenses; and
- K. whether Counsel wish the Court to set a trial date now or whether the date should be set after dispositive motions are decided. Also, Counsel shall set forth the expected length of trial and whether a jury will be requested.

Attached, the parties will find a draft copy of a form scheduling order. At the scheduling conference, Counsel should be prepared to discuss any other issues that are addressed in the form scheduling order.

In most cases, the Court will allow between four and six months for discovery.

Although the Court will resolve any disputed items, the Court expects Counsel to have resolved most, if not all, issues prior to the conference.

It is so ORDERED this 23rd day of February, 2003.


Benson Everett Legg
Chief Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

	*	
Plaintiff(s)	*	
	*	
vs.		Civil Action No.
	*	
Defendant(s)	*	

SCHEDULING ORDER

This scheduling order is being entered pursuant to Local Rule 103.9. **The schedule will not be changed except for good cause.**

II. DISCOVERY

Initial Disclosures

This is an action in which Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) disclosures need not be made.

Discovery Conference

This action is exempted from the requirements of the first sentence of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(d) and from Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f). However, you are encouraged to confer with one another immediately in order to (a) identify the issues, (b) set a discovery plan, (c) determine if the case can be resolved before your clients incur further litigation expense and (d) establish a cordial professional relationship among yourselves.

Procedure

All the provisions of Local Rule 104 apply, including the following:

a. All written discovery requests must be served in time to assure that they are answered before the discovery deadline. An extension of the deadline will not be granted because of unanswered discovery requests.

b. The existence of a discovery dispute as to one matter does not justify delay in taking any other discovery. The filing of a motion to compel or a motion for a protective order will not result in a general extension of the discovery deadline.

c. No discovery materials, including Rule 26(a)(1) and Rule 26(a)(2) disclosures, should be filed with the court. If they are, they will not be returned by the Clerk but will be retained for seven days. Thereafter, unless retrieved by the filing party, they will be destroyed without further notice.

d. Motions to compel shall be filed in accordance with Local Rule 104.8.

e. Please be familiar with the Discovery Guidelines of this Court which are Appendix A to the Local Rules. Appendix D contains guidelines for form discovery requests and confidentiality orders that may be helpful to you.

Deposition Hours

Please confer with one another and report to me within 14 days of the date of this order concerning the number of hours of depositions which you believe is appropriate. If I have not heard from you by that date, each side shall be limited to hours of depositions of fact witnesses (including parties). (If you agree to another number of deposition hours and notify me of your agreement, you may consider your agreement approved unless you hear from me to the contrary within 10 days.) If there are two or more parties on a particular side, they must share the deposition time allotted to their side unless upon your request I otherwise rule. Any colloquy engaged in by counsel shall be counted against his/her client's deposition time.

III. STATUS REPORT

The parties shall file in chambers only (not with the Clerk) on the day of the discovery deadline a status report covering the following matters:

- a. Whether discovery has been completed;
- b. Whether any motions are pending;
- c. Whether any party intends to file a dispositive pretrial motion;
- d. Whether the case is to be tried jury or non-jury and the anticipated length of trial;
- e. A certification that the parties have met to conduct serious settlement negotiations; and the date, time and place of the meeting and the names of all persons participating therein;

f. Whether each party believes it would be helpful to refer this case to another judge of this court for a settlement or other ADR conference, either before or after the resolution of any dispositive pretrial motion;

g. Whether all parties consent, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), to have a U.S. Magistrate Judge conduct any further proceedings in this case, either before or after the resolution of any dispositive pretrial motion, including trial (jury or non-jury) and entry of final judgment.

h. Any other matter which you believe should be brought to the court's attention.

IV. DISPOSITIVE PRETRIAL MOTIONS

If more than one party intends to file a summary judgment motion, the provisions of Local Rule 105.2.c apply.

After motions and responses thereto have been filed, I will advise you if a hearing is to be scheduled.

V. STATUS AND PRETRIAL CONFERENCES

I will set a scheduling conference after the status report has been filed unless that report indicates that one or more of you intends to file a dispositive pretrial motion. In the latter event I will not set a scheduling conference until after I have ruled upon the motion (or the dispositive pretrial motion deadline passes without the anticipated motion being filed).

At the scheduling conference:

a. I will set a deadline for submitting the pretrial order, motions in limine, proposed voir dire questions and proposed jury instructions;

b. I will set a pretrial conference date and a trial date; and

c. I will ask you whether a settlement or other ADR conference with a judicial officer would be useful, and whether all parties would consent to trial (jury or non-jury) before a U.S. Magistrate Judge. **Please confer with your client about these matters before the conference so that you are in a position to respond.**

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Any inquiries concerning the schedule should be directed to my chambers, not to the Clerk's Office.

Courtesy copies of any motions or other papers filed with the Clerk should not be

provided to chambers without my permission. The original and one copy of all motions and memoranda should be filed with the Clerk, except that two copies of any discovery motions and memoranda should be filed with the Clerk. See Local Rule 105.1.

VII. ATTORNEYS' FEES

In any case where attorneys' fees may be sought by the prevailing party, counsel must be familiar with the provisions of Local Rule 109.2 and the Rules and Guidelines for Determining Lodestar Attorneys' Fees in Civil Rights and Discrimination Cases which are Appendix B to the Local Rules.

VIII. COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL RULES

The court will demand compliance with the Local Rules. If you need to obtain a copy of the Local Rules, they are available on our website at www.mdd.uscourts.gov, or for purchase from the following companies:

The Daily Record	Gremlin Press	Lexis Publishing
(410) 752-3849	(410) 255-8811	1-804-972-7600

Rules Service Co.	West Group
(301) 424-9402	1-800-328-9352

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

Chambers of
BENSON EVERETT LEGG
Chief Judge

101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
(410) 962-0723

MEMORANDUM TO COUNSEL

Enclosed is the Scheduling Order. I specifically call your attention to the sections which not only set a discovery deadline but require the timely designation of expert witnesses who are expected to testify at trial and limit the number of deposition hours.

Counsel should confer and advise me (a letter is sufficient) within ten days of any modifications which they believe should be made to the Order. I will review the request and, unless I believe that the Order should remain as it is, either modify the schedule or set a scheduling conference.

If counsel do not make such a request within ten days, the schedule as set in the Order will be firm; modifications will be made only in response to events that are reasonably unforeseeable at present. If such an event occurs, counsel should notify me promptly by an appropriate motion.

Barring an emergency, all requests for extension must be in writing and must be submitted at least seven days prior to deadline.

NO FAXES FOR ANY REASON WILL BE ACCEPTED.

As stated in the Scheduling Order, **courtesy copies of any motions or other papers filed with the Clerk should not be provided to chambers without permission of the Court.**

Once the case is closed, the chambers file will be discarded. It is important, therefore, that counsel file in the Office of the Clerk all letters and other documents that they wish to be included as part of the official court file.

EXCEPT IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, COUNSEL SHOULD COMMUNICATE WITH MY CHAMBERS IN WRITING RATHER THAN BY TELEPHONE.

Benson Everett Legg
Chief Judge

c: Court File